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Deviations from Matthiessen's Rule for SrRuO_3 and CaRuO_3 *

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We have measured the change in the resistivity of thin films of SrRuO_3 and CaRuO_3 upon introducing point defects by electron irradiation at low temperatures, and we find significant deviations from Matthiessen's rule. For a fixed irradiation dose, the induced change in resistivity **decreases** with increasing temperature. Moreover, for a fixed temperature, the increase in resistivity with irradiation is found to be **sublinear**. We suggest that the observed behavior is due to the marked anisotropic scattering of the electrons together with their relatively short mean free path (both characteristic of many metallic oxides including cuprates) which amplify effects related to the Pippard ineffectiveness condition.

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